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E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/24/2016

TAGS: PREL KDEM UN TI

SUBJECT: TAJIKISTAN: UNTOP MANDATE NEEDS IMMEDIATE RENEWAL ACTION

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard E. Hoagland, Ambassador, EXEC, Embassy

Dushanbe.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

- 11. (C) UN Secretary General's Special Representative Ambassador Vladimir Sotirov (please protect throughout) of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (UNTOP) asked to see the Ambassador urgently on May 24.
- 12. (SBU) In mid-May every year, the UN Security Council extends the UNTOP mandate based on the Secretary-General's recommendation to the President of the Security Council. The current UNTOP mandate will expire on May 31, but no action has been taken so far.
- $\underline{\mathbb{1}}3$. (C) Ambassador Sotirov suggested it would be most useful for the USUN mission to ask the President of the Security Council to move quickly on this issue.
- 14. (SBU) The Ambassador fully concurs. UNTOP, highly professional and an honest political broker, is essential in Tajikistan. UNTOP is active in building national mechanisms for conflict prevention, strengthening rule of law, promoting human and civil rights, and most important establishing national dialogue during election periods. Tajikistan's next presidential election will be in November.
- 15. (C) UNTOP just received a two-year \$883,000 grant from Sweden's CIDA for democracy, human rights, and mass media. All proposed projects fit hand-in-glove with U.S. transformational diplomacy goals and objectives.
- $\P 4$. (C) Embassy Dushanbe asks that USUN consider pressing for immediate action to extend UNTOP's annual mandate.

HOAGLAND